

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Harbor Comments
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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

I am a retired math teacher and current Columbia Riverkeeper, and I have lived in Portland all my life. Throughout my life I have enjoyed many activities on the Willamette River, including taking out my sailboat. I am sincerely concerned with the pollution in the Willamette River and am personally invested in finding a solution to keep it clean. However, I oppose the current plan because I think the EPA is overstepping its bounds and disturbing natural processes. I believe the EPA's current plan to clean up the river is expensive, too long, and poorly conceived.

Nature is starting to heal itself; the river has eliminated 40% of its waste in the last ten years. It has happened several times in the history of our country where people try to improve the environment, but inadvertently cause more harm by interfering with natural processes. We can do harm by over-correcting, and stirring up the bottom of the riverbed will cause even more toxins to be released and spread throughout the river.

The EPA plans to spend \$1 billion on a plan that would do a lot of harm to the environment. If they make a mistake, as tends to be the case, they will have to spend even more time and potentially another billion dollars. If any citizens spread pollutants in the river, they would be arrested and punished; it does not seem right to me that the EPA can spread contaminants and receive funding from taxpayers.

Without a doubt, I would prefer a plan that takes less evasive measures and allows for more local input. I do not want Washington deciding what is best for my river when they have never seen it. Let's make smart moves. Portland residents will likely be funding the project through taxes, so we need more of a say in what happens to our environment.

Sincerely,

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